



- Protect Ecosystems Across Boundaries
- Connect Citizens to the Land
-

Employer of Choice

Employer of Choice



- Walk the Talk for Sustainability
- Revolutionize Effectiveness
-

Annual Report 2006


Courageous Conservation


Who Wants to Be a Visionary?


Courageous Conservation


The Forest Service celebrated its first century of service in 2005. At that time, leaders in the agency's Eastern Region asked, "What will our legacy for the next century be? What shared vision could inspire the next generation of employees and partners in the way that restoring overused and abandoned forests did in the last century?"


Today, the vision of Courageous Conservation drives the Eastern Region of the Forest Service, and everyday, Chippewa National Forest employees make the vision a reality through five Regional goals.

 **Protect Ecosystems across boundaries:** We will work with partners using traditional and creative new approaches, cooperatively managing ecosystems at a larger landscape level. This includes acquiring lands to conserve critical wetlands, increasing biodiversity, improving recreation opportunities, reducing wildfire threats and invasive species.

 **Connect Citizens to the land:** Engage citizens in our work through partnerships and agreements, linking potential partners to high priority programs. We will increase education efforts to help users act responsibly on the landscape, and encourage employees to teach about Chippewa issues through environmental education.

 **Walk the talk for sustainability:** Region 9 Forests will become leaders in green certification and will demonstrate sustainability by procuring "green" sustainable products, constructing green facilities, using energy efficient systems and showing how our sustainability practices can be applied to individual lifestyles.

 **Revolutionize effectiveness and efficiency:** Significantly increase the public benefits we deliver by working at broader scales. Develop cost-efficient, easy-to-use information systems that facilitate work at multiple scales. Expand collaboration with Research, and look for more opportunities in conservation education, managing non-native species and working in urban areas.

 **Be an employer of choice:** We will build a culture that incorporates the power of diversity in all its forms. This is recognized as the source of operational excellence, leadership and successful partnerships with the public. We will be successful in recruiting and developing people to be courageous leaders in conservation.



Chippewa National Forest

200 Ash Avenue NW · Cass Lake, MN 56633

(218) 335-8600

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa



Robert M. Harper

From the Forest Supervisor

As the new Supervisor for the Chippewa National Forest I'd like to introduce myself. My family and I arrived in Minnesota last October, after many years in Idaho and Montana. My wife and I are originally from Michigan and Wisconsin, respectively, and we are excited to be returning to the northwoods. My recent years in Montana and Idaho contrast with some of my first impressions of the Chippewa National Forest and I want to share some items that really stand out to me.

I am impressed and pleased with the level of cooperation between local, state and federal governments. Shortly after arriving to the Chippewa National Forest, I attended several off-road vehicle (OHV) public meetings where national forest staff worked side-by-side with three counties, the Minnesota DNR and a diverse group of citizens. Managing motorized use on public land is a difficult task anywhere. It was wonderful to experience the mutual respect, trust, and open coordination between you, your counties, the DNR, and Forest Service.

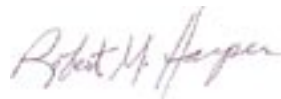
The distinctive land base shared by the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is also unique. I know of nowhere else in the country where National Forest and Tribal boundaries are superimposed upon one another to this extent. At my first meeting with the Band we found topics of shared interest including development of a tribal liaison role on the Chippewa National Forest, making improvements to heritage resources consultation, and developing a coordinated approach to noxious weed management.

Extensive multiple ownerships within national forest boundaries is common to Midwest and Eastern national forests. About half of the acreage within the Chippewa National Forest boundary is national forest system land and this patchwork of national forest provides many challenges and opportunities for land managers. I'm glad to see forest stewardship contracting opportunities developing here that provide a way for the Chippewa National Forest to work with you to complete projects on the ground. Coming from the arid west to a forest covered half in water has been a striking contrast for me. Surrounded by lakes, rivers and wetlands, we cannot ignore the importance of protecting this resource. Water drives not just our fisheries, hydrology and recreation programs but plays a role in every Chippewa National Forest activity. Keeping this vast water resource healthy keeps northern Minnesota's tourism economy strong.

I see a diverse timber industry here, with the manufacturing of paper and oriented strand board as well as sawmills. By comparison, the majority of timber industry in the northern Rockies is comprised of sawmills and log home manufacturers. While this last year has been a difficult one for northern Minnesota's loggers and industry, we recognize that a vibrant industry is critical for implementing components of our Forest Plan. Through my participation on the Governor's Task Force on Timber Industry Competitiveness, I gained better understanding of the challenges facing Minnesota's timber industry and the role of Minnesota's national forests. I suspect that this reflects good forest management decisions and good relationships and a willingness to work toward solutions.

In the northern Rockies, debates over the national forests can be fierce, and appeals and lawsuits are not uncommon. On the Chippewa, communication between landowners, special interest groups and agencies before a decision is made has meant fewer appeals afterward. I suspect that this reflects good relationships and a willingness to work toward solutions.

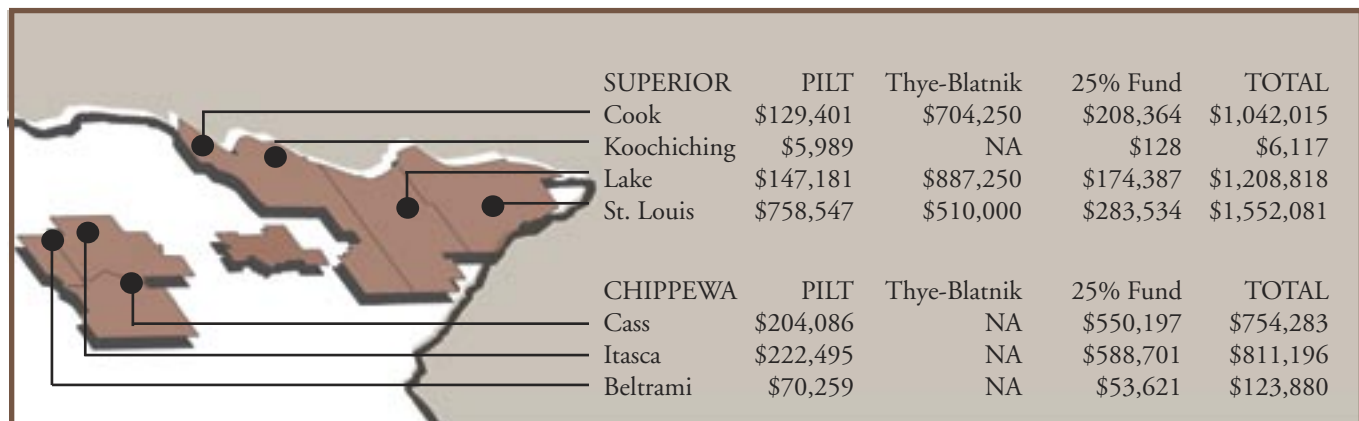
My grandfather worked as a District Ranger in Wisconsin and Michigan, and I grew up in the national forests of the Lakes States. They are near and dear to me and I appreciate being able to work on the Chippewa National Forest. In this Annual Report, you will read about the strong partnerships already at work on the Chippewa: the Reservoir Operations Plan Evaluation (ROPE), OHV Planning, environmental education, and community planning. This year, you will hear my impressions of what Courageous Conservation means to the Chippewa National Forest. Partnerships between communities, cooperators, volunteers and employees are our most valuable asset. As I become more familiar with the people, places, and programs here, I look forward to sharing my ideas how we can work together on future challenges and opportunities. Until then, enjoy your National Forest.



Payments to Counties

Seven Minnesota counties received a total of \$5,498,390 from the Forest Service in 2006. These payments, called the 25% fund, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Thye-Blatnik, are based on a formula of total Forest revenues, acres of National Forest and population within the counties. These funds have provided revenues to counties to compensate for the lost tax base of federal lands since 1922.

Congress passed the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act in 2000, allowing counties a choice in receiving payments that were implemented in 2001. Itasca, Cass and Lake (SNF) Counties chose a stable payment until 2006. In 2006, Congress extended the payment schedule for one year. Beltrami County and Koochiching, St. Louis and Cook Counties (SNF), decided to continue receiving 25% of Forest revenues.



2006 Accomplishments

TIMBER

Harvested (Million Board Feet).....	20,594
Reforestation (Acres).....	2,050
Timber Stand Improve (Acres).....	1,993
Fuelwood Permits.....	172
Christmas Tree Permits.....	199
Bough Permits.....	21

HUMAN RESOURCES

Senior Employment.....	60
Volunteers.....	35
Youth Conservation Corps.....	8
Full Time Employees.....	109
Campground Visitors.....	497,000
Visitor Centers.....	9,150
Seasonal/Temp Employees.....	64

FIRE and FUELS

Prescribed Burns (Acres).....	2,306
Wildfires (#Fires/Acres).....	66/78
Hazardous Fuel Reduced (Acres).....	3,435
Hazardous Fuels (non-WFHF Acres).....	2,798

WILDLIFE/FISHERIES

Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced (Acres).....	655
Noxious Weed Treatment (Acres).....	66
Inland Streams Enhanced/Restored (Miles).....	2
Inland Lakes Enhanced/Restored (Acres).....	60
Soil Water Resource Improved (Acres).....	29
Terrestrial Ecological Units (Acres).....	7,000

LANDS

Right-Of-Way Cases.....	1
Special Use Permits (Total).....	668
Land Acquisition (Acres).....	80
Mineral Permits (Issued).....	30
Boundary Management.....	12.35
Total Nat'l Forest Acres.....	666,621
Total Acres Within Boundary.....	1,599,660

ROADS AND TRAILS

Road Maintenance (Miles).....	380
Road Improved (Miles).....	0
Road Decommissioned (Miles).....	14.8
Deferred Maintenance (Miles).....	679
Trails Maintained to Standard (Miles).....	200

A Landmark Day

“The National Historic Landmark designation is the highest such recognition accorded by our nation to historic properties. These special places are the actual sites where significant historical events occurred, or where prominent Americans worked or lived. They represent the ideas that shaped our nation. Fewer than 2,500 historic places carry the title of National Historic Landmark.”

It’s a modest looking site. Eighteen long green buildings with white trim, tucked into the woods near a small lake. It’s peaceful and on any given summer day you might find just a few people strolling about the grounds. This is Camp Rabideau, one of the few remaining Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the country and one of the country’s newest National Historic Landmarks.

In 2006, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced the designation of 12 sites in eleven states as National Historic Landmarks, including the Chippewa National Forest’s Camp Rabideau. Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, located six miles south of Blackduck, MN was purchased in 1934 and occupied by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees from 1935-1941. Rabideau was home to about 300 young men, largely from Minnesota. Here they worked, learned a trade, earned their high school diplomas, and helped families back home survive the Great Depression. They played baseball in the open field in the center of the site, and ping pong in the Rec Hall. The CCC’ers left their mark on the forest via road building projects, tree plantations, fire towers and healthy white pines.

Enter the site today, stroll about the grounds, and you can almost imagine the boys of Company 306 standing there before you.

In fact, on August 26, 2006, some of the boys were standing in front of those green buildings once again. Forest Service staff hosted a community event at the camp, celebrating the Landmark Designation. Over 200 visitors joined in the festivities, including members of the Preservation Alliance, Minnesota State Heritage Preservation Office, National Park Service and 12 CCC enrollees from the area. Also on hand were Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) workers, young people ages 18-22, who had been working on restoration projects at the camp during the summer. It was a full circle, the camp becoming once again an important part of building skills and character of young people. Together the CCC and MCC crews placed the Historic Landmark plaque on the site.

Rabideau CCC was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Volunteers have actively worked with the Chippewa National Forest to restore five of the thirteen remaining buildings through the Passport In Time (PIT) program and this year, through MCC. Currently Camp Rabideau is open to the public and during the summer months on-site hosts are available for interpretive tours. Rabideau CCC camp is one of the best surviving examples of a CCC camp and has the largest surviving collection of unaltered structures in the United States.



National Historic Landmark plaque



CCC and MCC crews meet at Rabideau Landmark celebration

Drought Year

Fire Danger!

If you look at the 2006 Accomplishments under Wildfires and Acres, the numbers show 66 wildfires on the Chippewa across just 78 acres. In 2005, 47 wildfires burned over 500 acres, a seemingly more serious number of fires. So, why was the 2006 fire season deemed so extreme? Here's the answer: In May, most of Minnesota had surplus moisture. By June 27, the Chippewa had "abnormally dry" conditions. Within two weeks, the drought index went to severe, and since July 25, the Chippewa has been under "Extreme Drought" conditions. Between May 16 and October 30, precipitation levels were 8-10 inches below normal.



Chippewa fire crews normally on call during the fire season from mid-April to mid-May, found themselves on stand-by for most of the summer. Fire trucks, airplanes, and field crews were on the look-out for smoke, and burning permits were tightly restricted. By August, fire crews were covering Chippewa needs, while also being called out across the country to other drought areas. Fifty-one Chippewa fire fighters worked on wildfires off the Forest, assisting larger wildfires on the Superior National Forest as well as traveling west to Oregon and Colorado and providing fire protection in Louisiana and Mississippi, areas hit in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. Drought conditions continue today, with a disturbing lack of snowfall in the area. Firefighters are once again gearing up for a full fire season and ask everyone to be FIREWISE in the upcoming year!

Reaching the Water

Wildfire risk was not the only topic of conversation this year. Much of this dry summer was spent discussing.....



lakes. Water was definitely on people's minds as they returned to summer cabins, resorts and boats and the impact of the drought became very noticeable. Navigation on the area's shallow lakes became increasingly difficult through the summer, long-reaching boat launches mired down trailers and docks were left high and dry.

Lake levels measured at Cass Lake showed water at the low end of the normal summer levels in July, and then dipped slightly below by late August. Knutson Dam, located on the west end of Cass Lake, had 5 of 6 gates closed for most of the summer, allowing just the minimum required flow downstream. Still, the effects of the drought were felt. And talk of low water mixed with talk of the Reservoir Operation Plan Evaluation or ROPE.

For hydrologists, talking about the water level operating plans during a drought year is a difficult message. Participants in the August public meetings expressed concern about changes to dam operating plans—changes some connected with the drought levels they were experiencing. It is the lows (and high) water levels, though, that are driving the ROPE team to find a more natural seasonal cycle in the river flow.

	ft above sea level		ft above sea level
Highest Recorded Water Level in 1950	1304.53	Low Water Mark in August 2006	1300.50
High Water Mark in 1999	1303.46	Normal Summer Pool	1301.40
Historic Low Water	1298.60	<i>To Learn More about the Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation, turn to Page 7</i>	

ROPE: We all live downstream

Stand at Knutson Dam on the Chippewa National Forest at the east end of Cass Lake, and you start to think about how all that water moves downstream. Knutson is the second of several water control structures on the Upper Mississippi River, and is located between Ottertail Power Dam, downstream of Lake Bemidji, and Winnie Dam. These first three dams on the Mississippi are operated by separate agencies and a public utility, yet together, have a wide impact on lake levels in the Mississippi Headwaters Region.

The Corps of Engineers and the Chippewa National Forest began a Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) study for the Mississippi River in 2001. Its primary purpose is to improve system-wide operations of all the Mississippi Headwaters reservoirs and stewardship of the River. The ROPE study emphasized flood damage reduction, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality, erosion, hydropower and navigation on lakes and rivers. In August 2006, a draft of five alternative operating plans were presented at public meetings held across the Headwaters. Each alternative highlights a different goal in the management of the headwater reservoir, with the final plan reflecting the best combination of the alternatives.

E-PLAN: Focus: Environmental Health-- increased diversity of aquatic life; restoring more natural hydrology.

Results: More natural lakes levels and river flow regime. Increased seasonal fluctuations in lake levels depending on precipitation, correct timing of high/low flows and equal emphasis on lake and river habitats.

T-PLAN: Focus: Similar goals as Environmental Plan, but especially focused on managing Winnibigoshish, Leech and Cass Lakes within Leech Lake Reservation to benefit fish, wildlife, wild rice, and cultural resources.

Results: Reduced erosion and protection of archaeological resources.

R-PLAN: Focus: Maximize direct economic benefits from hydropower, recreation and flood damage avoidance.

Results: Similar to the existing operating plan but modified to balance economic benefits throughout the system. Timing of reservoir drawdown and filling of pool designed to maximize economic benefits.

CURRENT PLAN Focus: Flood damage reduction and recreational interests.

Results: Stable water level provides good access to reservoirs, but increases erosion. Pools are lowered in fall and winter, increased in spring.

PROPOSED PLAN: Focus: Operating more northern reservoirs in accordance with the Tribal and Environmental plans while maintaining flood control benefits for larger flooding events. Restore some natural water level fluctuation to protect and enhance environmental resources.

Results: Changes in timing reservoirs filling and lowering to reduce shoreline erosion and benefit reservoir and riverine habitats. Operation for flood damage reduction similar to current plan, with updated flood damage curves.

Coming up around the bend: Living in the Mississippi Headwaters Region, all of us should take time to think about the Reservoir Plans and their impacts to the Mississippi. We all live downstream! Public meetings to role out the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be held this spring, and the release of a draft EIS is set for early summer. The next step is to complete the final EIS in 2008-2009 and put the ROPE plan into action.

For more information on ROPE check the website at
www.mvp.usace.army.mil/rope



Headwaters of the Mississippi River

Roads in a Yellow Wood

Drive down a Forest System Road, and you will see a four-digit sign identifying the road you are on. Spend time on that road, and you may see big trucks, motorcycles, 4-wheelers, hikers and 6-wheeled ranger vehicles driving with you. Eight percent of all Chippewa Visitors use Off-Highway Vehicles (ORV) on over 2,500 miles of road on the Chippewa National Forest.

In 2005, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth signed the Travel Management Rule and made designating road and trail vehicle riding opportunities a priority. At the same time, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Cass, Itasca and Beltrami Counties also started a process to designate ORV trails and roads on their agency lands. With similar timelines and goals, the agencies formed an ORV team and began working together to gather public input regarding ORV's and road use.

The cooperative work began immediately with open houses in January held in Remer, Marcell, Deer River, Bemidji, and Walker. Over 300 people came in to talk, look over maps and discuss the implications of ORV designated trails. Comments from those open houses were shared among the Chippewa, DNR and counties, and input was drawn into a Forest road map. The next step took the agencies back into communities, working with ORV groups and local townships to identify road



Forest road near the Woodtick Trail

use.

By the summer of 2006, engineering crews posted over 600 vertical and horizontal signs on system roads, with another 1400 to be posted. In October, the public took another look, this time at the proposed routes for ORVs on the Chippewa National Forest and surrounding public lands. Since those public meetings, the team has drafted four alternatives to analyze: 1) a "No Action" alternative, 2) the proposed road system that was seen at the public meetings, 3) an alternative that emphasizes resource protection for both motorized and non-motorized use, and 4) an alternative that increases ORV access to economically benefit communities.

The team will report on each alternative's potential impacts to the resource and complete the draft environmental assessment in February 2007. The public will have a chance to comment again in March and a decision on road designations is expected by May 2007. The May decision will also tie in with a Mixed Use Analysis, which determines the safety and liability when allowing both highway licensed and unlicensed motor vehicles on the same roadway at the same time. Together, the decisions in May will provide the best network of roads open to ORV use overall, with an Annual Review based on public comment. As you drive the Forest Roads, keep in mind that the road system designation will be reviewed each year based on your public comments. We hope you enjoy the system, stay safe, and keep in touch!



Touring on a Forest Road

Inspirations from the Forest

In July 2006, the Chippewa was one of two National Forests in the Eastern Region to host the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit “Inspirations from the Forest”. This Centennial display brought in new guests, and a new theme, to the Norway Beach Visitor Center!

“Inspirations from the Forest” was produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service National

Endowment for the Arts. Individual panels highlighted artists from across the country—musicians, writers, basketmakers, quilters—who draw their inspiration from the environment. Added inspiration was gathered from 12 local artists, all with Chippewa National Forest connections, doing demonstrations and entertaining us with live music throughout the week. Here’s a little taste of a very artistic week at Norway Beach.



Chainsaw Carver Paul Albright



John Zasada teaches birch bark beading



Birchbark Baskets with Jackie Charwood



Forest Service Centennial Quilt



Walking Sticks by Ken Ess & Reynold Brix



Autumn Leaf Quilt by Sue Weis



Luke & Amy Rutten, Lonely Bogstompers

For the Birds

Gather more than 50 biologists, foresters and bird conservationists together for a field trip, and it may be tough to keep the binoculars down and stay focused on the discussion! On July 12-13, 2006, the Chippewa National Forest hosted its first Boreal Hardwood Transition Zone Forest Bird Diversity Workshop. The workshop was designed for natural resource planners, land managers, biologists, foresters and other individuals interested in promoting forest bird conservation. Presentations highlighted species but also bird conservation issues and initiatives in Minnesota. Presentations were paired with field trips to selected habitats.

Events like the Bird Diversity workshop promote collaboration to improve habitat needs for bird species. Leading up to that goal is fifteen years of statistically valid forest bird monitoring data from hundreds of points across the Chippewa National Forest.

In 1991, the University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRI), the Chippewa, Chequamegon-Nicolet and Superior National Forests developed the Western Great Lakes Bird Monitoring Partnership. It has become one of the longest running large-scale population monitoring programs in the nation. A total of 1,246 survey points are studied annually for breeding birds within the three forests. On the Chippewa, 134 stands were surveyed and trends for fifty-four bird species were considered in the monitoring.

Is this all for the birds? A great benefit to the Western Great Lakes Bird Monitoring Partnership is engaging public and private land managers and bird conservationists in land management decisions. The collaborative work also leverages funds to expand research and provides increased education and outreach programs. Benefits of the partnership were not hard to spot at the Bird Diversity Workshop, even without the binoculars. Fifty biologists, birders, planners and foresters finding many fine-feathered connections throughout the Great Lakes region.



Other Groups Touring the Forest in 2006:

- ✓ Russian "Open World" Group
(Tourism, Marketing, Education)
- ✓ Temperate Forest Foundation Teacher Tour
(Sustainable Timber Resource and Education)
- ✓ General Management Review
(Regional Forester's Tour)
- ✓ American Society of Farm Managers
and Rural Appraisers (Shirley)
- ✓ Minnesota Forest Roads Tour
(Federal, State, County Engineers)
- ✓ Lake States Long Term Soil Productivity
Study Site Tour



Bird Diversity Workshop

Stewardship Contracting

One of the five goals in the Region's Courageous Conservation plan is to "Revolutionize Effectiveness and Efficiency." The Walker Ranger District of Chippewa National Forest has initiated our first stewardship contract, with a unique way to gain efficiencies by exchanging goods for services.

The initial concept for a stewardship project was to harvest timber and use the proceeds to remove old buildings at the former Cedar Springs Resort property acquired by the Forest in 2001. With the buildings removed, part of this highly scenic location on Leech Lake could become a day use/picnic area and open new opportunities to connect people to the land.

The project was submitted in June 2005 and was approved by the Regional Forester that fall. Cass County officials quickly agreed to partner with the Forest Service for this project.

Cass County also had contacts that could complete both the logging and the demolition at the old resort site. In addition, the location of the timber sale was part of a larger prescribed burn project with the county.

Once the concept for a stewardship project was introduced, work to estimate the value of the timber and the cost of the demolition was completed that winter. The Forest Service worked with the county to familiarize everyone with the stewardship procedures and answer questions.



*Jim Demgen, Norm Moody and Cindy Miller
finalize the Stewardship Contract*

Prices for both the goods and services were agreed upon and the contract was successfully executed on September 5, 2006 with handshakes all around. Implementation was completed in fall of 2006.

As the first stewardship contract for the Chippewa, this was a success on many levels. At a minimum, it reduced the backlog of deferred maintenance, providing a recreation site on Leech Lake, timber for the local markets, jobs for local people and a new partnership with the County. Even more, it became incentive to find other projects here that could become equally effective and efficient stewardship contract opportunities in 2007.



A Seasonal World

Each year, those of us working permanently on the Chippewa receive a breath of fresh air in the form of summer seasonal employees. Seeing the 64 new faces working at recreation sites, on the fire crews, and survey teams reminds us how we all started out. As we look at seasonal accomplishments, we also realize how much we depend on their energy to meet the demands of a busy summer field season!

Recreation: From Campground Reservations to Trail Maintenance, the seasonal recreation crew becomes a key contact for summer visitors and the Chippewa's key resource for keeping recreation sites running safely.

Visitor Center: Hired through local colleges as part of a larger training/career path program, the naturalists at Norway Beach and Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Centers see over 8,000 visitors in a season, and present over 150 conservation programs in three months.

Fire: The work begins early for these seasonals, who start with the spring fire season in April. In 2006,

the drought and high fire danger kept firefighters busy throughout the summer, and crews were called out on forest wildfires, as well as traveling to the Superior National Forest and across the country.

YCC/MCC: Area high school students were hired through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) once again this summer, helping with recreation, wildlife and archaeology projects in Deer River and Walker. For the first year, Minnesota Conservation Corps crews from Bemidji and Guthrie also worked for the Chippewa, completing restoration work on buildings at historic Camp Rabideau.

Wildlife: A number of seasonal employees were hired to work with the Monitoring Inventory and Survey Team (MIST) last summer. This group spent many hours in the field, working on goshawk and red-shoulder hawk surveys and forest songbird surveys (black-throated blue, olive-sided flycatcher, Connecticut warblers and bay-breasted warblers). MIST team members also complete noxious weed surveys.

Learn Something New....

Each month, Chippewa National Forest employees do something really outstanding—they teach. We are a group of biologists, archaeologists, firefighters, information and lands specialists, recreation managers and timber program managers...and together we presented over 300 education programs in the last year. Over half of the permanent employees on the Chippewa National Forest presented some type of education program in 2006. Over half. That's really outstanding---and something the Chippewa takes great pride in.

The programs? They are not only about Smokey Bear, but about being Firewise and learning to live in the urban interface. It's not just about animal tracks, but about habitat, population and sensitive species. It's not identifying flowers, but finding ways to fight invasive species and plant natives. From gaggles of kindergartners making their annual visit to see Smokey at the Forest Supervisor's Office to campers eye-to-eye with kestrels,

our programs are wide-ranging, dealing with current issues. We are thinking globally, and acting locally, in our school, campgrounds and communities. Learn something new, get out there and teach it....every day!



Visitors enjoy an evening at Norway Beach Visitor Center

Charette—Design for the Future



charrette [shuh-ret] *Noun an interactive design process used to gather information and identify conceptual design ideas, notably architectural. Both pictorial and interactive, charrette considers values and ideas of a community for proposed new facilities.*

Imagine you have been given the task of designing a building, a Forest Service Ranger Station located in a tourism based community. You have a lake before you, woods behind you and a blank slate in front of you. What would your building look like? It seems like a dream to design your own building, but where would you start? For the Walker Ranger District of the Chippewa National Forest, the best way to start was to invite the community to a design charette, and ask them to imagine on paper.

For three days in June, this 20-person group of Chippewa employees, architects and the public sat down and used a structured design technique to move the new Walker Ranger District proposal closer to reality. The goal is to construct a new administrative office, warehouses and crew quarters at the existing site of the Walker Ranger District.

The group looked at design principles, the site's natural buffers, lake breezes, existing "footprint" and using local colors, local materials, local culture. A tour of the existing site showed the possibilities and the potential roadblocks. The charette challenges people to think outside the box, be a leader in the use of new technologies and sustainable construction materials. At the end of the workshop, the group had a clear picture of what the site needs to be. It will reflect office and visitor needs, gear and vehicles of firefighter crews, housing for seasonal workers and promote connections within the community. By the end of the charrette, we had a solid picture of this site, and what it can mean for the Chippewa and the city of Walker.

Ranger Tom Somrak noted "We believe that the new office complex will allow the Forest Service to continue to provide quality service to our visitors as well as support our staff in all that we do to manage the Chippewa National Forest. Being a part of the Walker community continues to be very important to us. We hope the community's participation in the planning and design of this new facility will strengthen our partnerships in the future."



Walk the Talk for Sustainability

The design of the new Walker Ranger Station will look at Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards. LEED is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance and green buildings. The Chippewa National Forest is also reviewing ways to "green" existing buildings, implementing more energy saving measures and increasing use of earth-friendly products.



-----For additional information, complete and return the information request form-----

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

200 Ash Avenue NW

Cass Lake, MN 56633

(218)335-8600

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rope Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Map \$9.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORV on National Forests | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Rec Map \$9.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PIT Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> LSIA Catalog (Books) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FireWise | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Native Invasives | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Wildflowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Ranger Program |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th an Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.